The major interventions under NFSM are demonstrations on improved production technologies; distribution of quality seeds of high yielding varieties & hybrids; popularization of newly released varieties through seed minikits; support for micro-nutrients, gypsum, zero tillage, rotavators, conoweeders and other farm implements; integrated pest management; integrated nutrient management; water lifting and moisture saving device; training and mass media campaign including award for best performing districts etc. Besides, the pilot projects on community generators, management of blue bulls and demonstrations of International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) technologies are also included. The identified districts are given flexibility to adopt the area specific technological interventions suited to their local conditions.

In Jharkhand five districts namely Simdega, Singhbhum (W), Ranchi, Gumla and Hazaribagh have been identified under NFSM-Rice. With inclusion of above five districts, it is projected that, subject to favourable climatic condition and rainfall behaviour, the productivity level of rice in these districts will come at least at par with the State average productivity by the end of Eleventh Plan.

Second green revolution

†1952. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken by Government to start the campaign of second green revolution in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many parts/States have been identified in the country for its success from estimated production point of view;

(c) whether it is also a fact that required funds have been provided for in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for achieving the desired results; and

(d) if so, the comprehensive details thereof and the way it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The revitalization of the agriculture sector, improvement of agricultural production and productivity and enhancement of the income of the farmers are some of the major thrust areas identified by the Government for focused and concerted action. In order to achieve these objectives, the "National Policy for Farmers", incorporating the key recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers, has been approved by the Government. In Addition, a number of programmes/schemes are already under implementation. Two new schemes, i.e. "Rashtriya Krishi Vikas yojana", which aims to achieve 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan Period by ensuring a holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors with an objective, *inter alia*, to incentivise States to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors and the "National Food Security Mission" to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses, with overall proposed allocations of Rs. 25,000 crore and Rs. 4882.48 crore respectively have been launched recently, several other schemes, including "National Horticulture Mission" and the "National Rainfed Area Authority" have also been launched by the Government. A comprehensive credit policy has also been announced by the Government of India in June, 2004 which, *inter alia*, aims to enhance flow of credit to agriculture sector

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and debt restructuring of outstanding loans for farmers in distress and in arrears. States and Union Territories are advised from time to time for effective implementation of the schemes for development of agriculture.

Congress of farmers

1953. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has organized Congress of farmers for the benefit of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the farmers benefited by such schemes, especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, by when such Congress would be held at the National or State levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) has not organized Congress of farmers at National Level and there is no such proposal at present. However, the States/UTs can organize such Congress of farmers for facilitating farmer to farmer learning, interaction, technology transfer and for training of farmers under existing schemes. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has conducted Rythu Sedassu (Farmers' Meet) at each Revenue divisional Head Quarters during 2006-07 and 2007-08 in all 79 Revenue Divisions. Large numbers of farmers have participated from different villages for one day Rythu Sadassu (Farmers' Meet) organized for interaction and transfer of technology besides exhibiting of live demonstration. 3.16 lakh farmers during 2006-07 and 4.06 lakh farmers during 2007-08 have been benefited by such schemes in Andhra Pradesh.

Price hike of onion

1954. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of onion is rising very frequently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the reaction of Government; and

(d) what are the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b)Price of onion is subject to seasonal fluctuations. The prices of onion, measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which declined from 167.1 in 2005 to 137.3 in 2006 (by 17.8 per cent) has increased to 243.5 in 2007 (January to November). On month-to-month basis in 2007 the WPI for onion declined for 245.8 in February to 165.3 in May 2007. An upsurge in prices from June 2007 continued up to October 2007 which has been followed again by a phase of decline in prices in November 2007.

(c) and (d) Government has been monitoring the movement in prices of onion with the objective to protect the interest of both the growers and the consumers of onion in the country.

To contain the abnormal hike in consumer prices of onion, the Government took the measures like supplying onion through Kendriya Bhandars, retail outlets of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd., (NAFED) and the restriction